

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 SAA-01 ACDA-12  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
HA-05 /111 W  
-----017753 291317Z /45

P R 291047Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4503  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 9651

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR IS EG  
SUBJ: BRITISH CHARGE'S MEETING WITH SHIMON PERES

1. SUMMARY: AMONG THE POINTS MADE BY PERES IN JULY 27 CON-  
VERSATION WITH BRITISH CHARGE: HE OPPOSES TABLING OF A US  
PEACE PLAN; SADAT APPROVED KREISKY-BRANDT STATEMENT BEFORE  
ITS RELEASE; GOI NEEDLESSLY HUMILIATED SADAT ON THE EL ARISH  
PROPOSAL; PERES SUPPORTS THE APPROACH OF OBTAINING AN  
AGREED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BUT BELIEVES PRACTICAL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WEST BANK COULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH EGYPT;  
SADAT WOULD ACCEPT LESS THAN TOTAL WITHDRAWAL; HIS MEDDLING  
IN ISRAELI POLITICS IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND BEGIN GOVERNMENT  
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IS STILL SOLID. PERES WAS NEGATIVE ON DEPLOYING UNIFIL  
FORCES FURTHER SOUTH AND BELIEVES THE SAUDIS ARE PLACING  
INCREASED STORE IN SADAT AS A BULWARK AGAINST SOVIET EN-  
CROACHMENT. END SUMMARY

2. UK EMBASSY POLOFF (STARK) READ TO US FROM NOTES  
HE TOOK AT JULY 27 MEETING UK CHARGE' MICHAEL NEWINGTON

HAD WITH SHIMON PERES. MOST OF THE CONVERSATION DEALTH  
WITH PERES' RECENT TRAVELS. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

3. IN LONDON PERES URGED CALLAGHAN AND OWEN TO PRESS  
THE US AGAINST OFFERING ITS OWN PROPOSALS IN PEACE  
NEGOTIATIONS. PERES WAS EXTREMELY UPSET OVER HAVING TO  
CANCEL A MEETING WITH HUSSEIN. HE CLAIMS HE DID NOT PASS  
TO HUSSEIN THE REAL REASON FOR THE CANCELLATION, I.E.,  
BEGIN'S VETO, BUT INSTEAD HE MADE UP SOME EXCUSE. PERES'  
CHAGRIN WAS COMPOUNDED WHEN BEGIN PUBLICIZED THE EPISODE  
LAST WEEK.

4. PERES MAINTAINED THAT SADAT WAS GIVEN THE KREISKY-BRANDT  
STATEMENT PRIOR TO ITS RELEASE AND ACCEPTED IT, MAKING ONLY  
MINOR CHANGES WHICH PERES HAD NO TROUBLE APPROVING.

5. IN DISCUSSING THE CABINET'S JULY 24 REJECTION OF THE  
EL ARISH PROPOSAL, PERES LAUNCHED INTO A MONOLOGUE ON ARAB  
PSYCHOLOGY TO ILLUSTRATE HIS VIEW THAT THE GOI'S RE-  
SPONSE WAS A SERIOUS INSULT TO SADAT. PERES DID NOT BE-  
LEVE THAT SADAT VIEWED HIS PROPOSAL TO BUILD THREE CENTERS  
OF WORSHIP ON MT SINAI AS A CONCESSION TO BE GRANTED BY  
ISRAEL; RATHER, HE EXPECTED TO BE CONGRATULATED BY THE IS-  
RAELIS FOR HIS GREAT VISION AS REFLECTED IN THIS IDEA.  
ACCORDING TO PERES, SADAT IS ACTING NOT AS A PAN-ARABIST,  
BUT AS THE LEADER OF THE ARABS. HE SEES HIMSELF AS THE  
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ELDER STATESMAN OF THE ARAB WORLD AND HIS SENORITY AND  
PRIMACY HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED. THE CABINET ANSWER ON EL  
ARISH WAS NEEDLESSLY HUMILIATING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 9651

QC PERES DOES NOT SEE EGYPT AGREEING TO A SFM CONFERENCE  
UNLESS THE US COMES UP WITH ITS OWN PEACE PROPOSALS.  
ALTHOUGH SUPPORTING A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AS THE  
CORRECT APPROACH IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, PERES MAIN-  
TAINED THAT MANY PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE WEST  
BANK COULD BE NEGOTIATED NOW WITH EGYPT. ULTIMATELY,  
SUCH MATTERS WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED WITH JORDAN AND THE  
PALESTINIANS, BUT AT THE MOMENT, EGYPT IS ISRAEL'S ONLY  
NEGOTIATING PARTNER. IN ANSWER TO NEWINGTON'S QUESTION,  
PERES DID NOT BELIEVE THAT EGYPT HAS TERRITORIAL DESIGNS  
ON GAZA, POINTING OUT THAT CAIRO NEVER GAVE THE GAZANS  
EGYPTIAN CITIZENSHIP. ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS SADAT'S  
ULTIMATE FALLBACK POSITION REGARDING THE RAFAH APPROACHES,  
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PERES SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY BE SATISFIED WITH AN ISRAELI  
COMMITMENT TO EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL UPON CONCLUSION OF  
COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT TO INCLUDE PEACE TREATIES  
WITH ALL CONFRONTATION STATES. PERES ADDED THAT THE RAFAH  
APPROACHES QUESTION CANNOT BE SETTLED BEFORE THE WEST BANK  
ISSUE IS RESOLVED. PERES BELIEVES THAT SADAT IS STILL  
ANXIOUS TO MAKE A DEAL AND THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT SOME-  
THING LESS THAN TOTAL WITHDRAWAL. HE IS NO LONGER TALKING  
ABOUT DIVIDING JERUSALEM. PERES SAID THAT HE WAS VAGUE  
ABOUT ITS ULTIMATE STATUS, BUT INSISTED THAT THERE HAS  
TO BE SOME MANIFESTATION OF THE "MOSLEM FLAG" IN THE  
EASTERN PART OF THE CITY.

7. PERES AGREED WITH NEWINGTON THAT SADAT'S ATTEMPTS TO  
MEDDLE IN ISRAELI POLITICS IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, BUT HE  
POINTED OUT THAT SADAT PLAYS THE SAME SORT OF GAME AMONG  
HIS BROTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. PERES BELIEVED THAT IN ANY  
EVENT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABOUT TO DISINTEGRATE.

"REBELLION IN THE COALITION IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT BEFORE  
MANY MORE STAGES."

8. TURNING TO LEBANON, PERES DISAGREED WITH NEWINGTON'S  
CONTENTION THAT THE CHRISTIANS ARE NOT IN DANGER OF GENO-  
CIDE AND THAT ISRAEL STANDS TO LOSE BY BEATING THIS TOPIC  
TO DEATH. NOR DID PERES ACCEPT THE CONCERN OF HIS BRITISH  
INTERLOCUTORS THAT THE USSR MAY CAUSE TROUBLE IN THE UN OVER  
RENEWAL OF UNIFIL UNLESS THE UN FORCE IS SEEN TO BE COVER-  
ING THE WHOLE AREA OF ITS MANDATE. PERES CLAIMED THAT  
UNIFIL HAD INSUFFICIENT TROOPS FOR THE TERRITORY OF THEIR  
CURRENT DEPLOYMENT WITHOUT TRYING TO EXTEND THEMSELVES  
FURTHER BY MOVING SOUTH. HE BELIEVED THAT ASSAD IS DIS-  
APPOINTED WITH THE SYRIAN ARMY PERFORMANCE IN LEBANON.  
PERES SAW A GRADUAL SHIFT IN  
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THE SAUDI ATTITUDE TOWARD SADAT, A CHANGE ACCELERATED  
BY RECENT EVENTS IN SOUTH YEMEN. THE SAUDIS ARE BEGINNING  
TO VIEW SADAT AS THE MAIN DEFENDER AGAINST ENCROACHMENT  
IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND ARE DOWNGRADING THEIR  
RELIANCE ON THE WEST.

9. STARK SAID PERES APPEARED TIRED AND DEPRESSED. HIS  
CONVERSATION WITH WITHOUT HUMOR AND LACKED ITS CHARACTERISTIC  
SPARKLE. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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